

# ESTHER AND MORDECAI



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Adapted from : [www.fustero.es](http://www.fustero.es)

Lesson 6 for August 8, 2015

“In the third year of his reign he made a feast for all his officials and servants—the powers of Persia and Media, the nobles, and the princes of the provinces being before him.” (*Esther 1:3*)

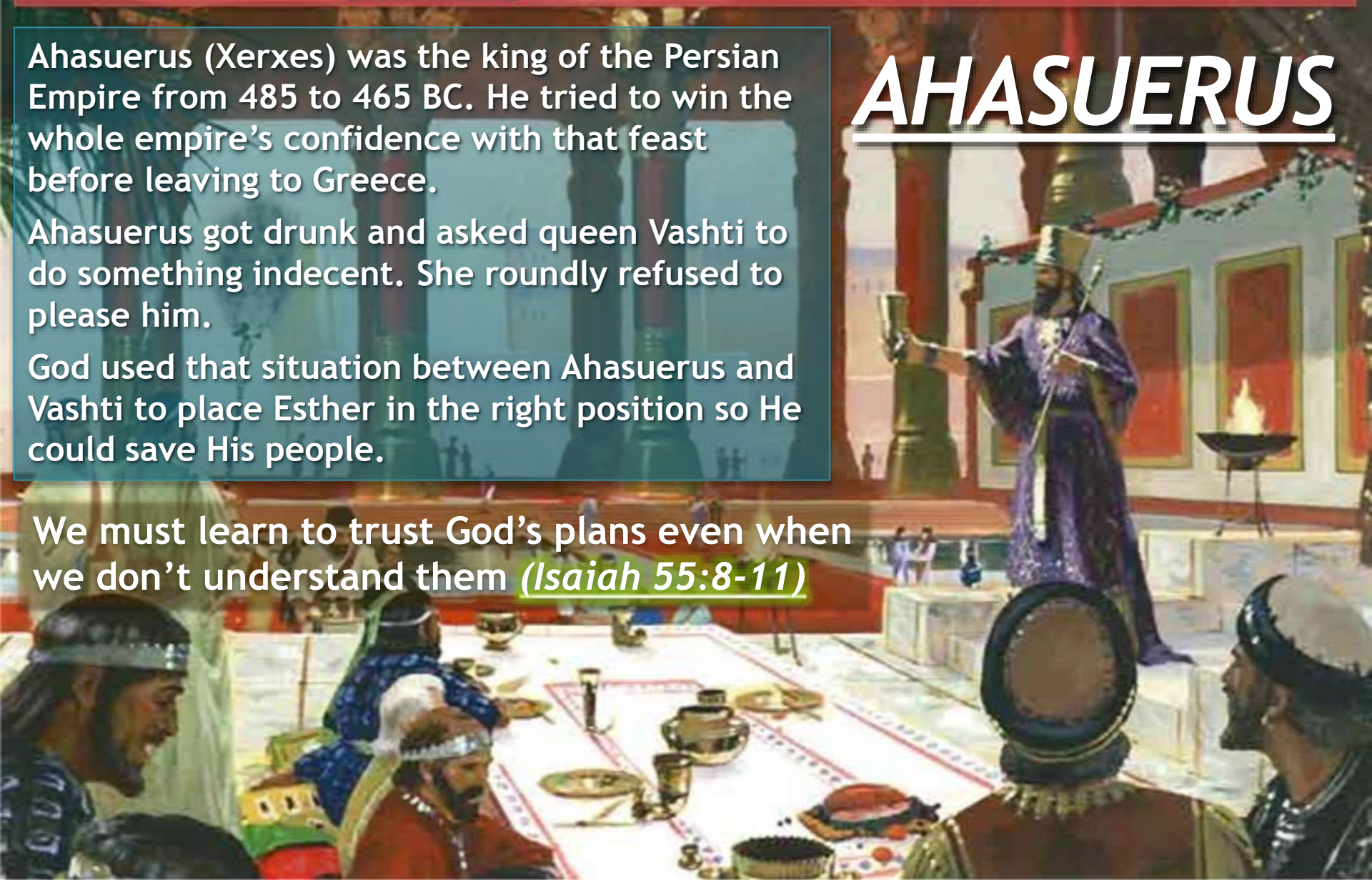
Ahasuerus (Xerxes) was the king of the Persian Empire from 485 to 465 BC. He tried to win the whole empire’s confidence with that feast before leaving to Greece.

Ahasuerus got drunk and asked queen Vashti to do something indecent. She roundly refused to please him.

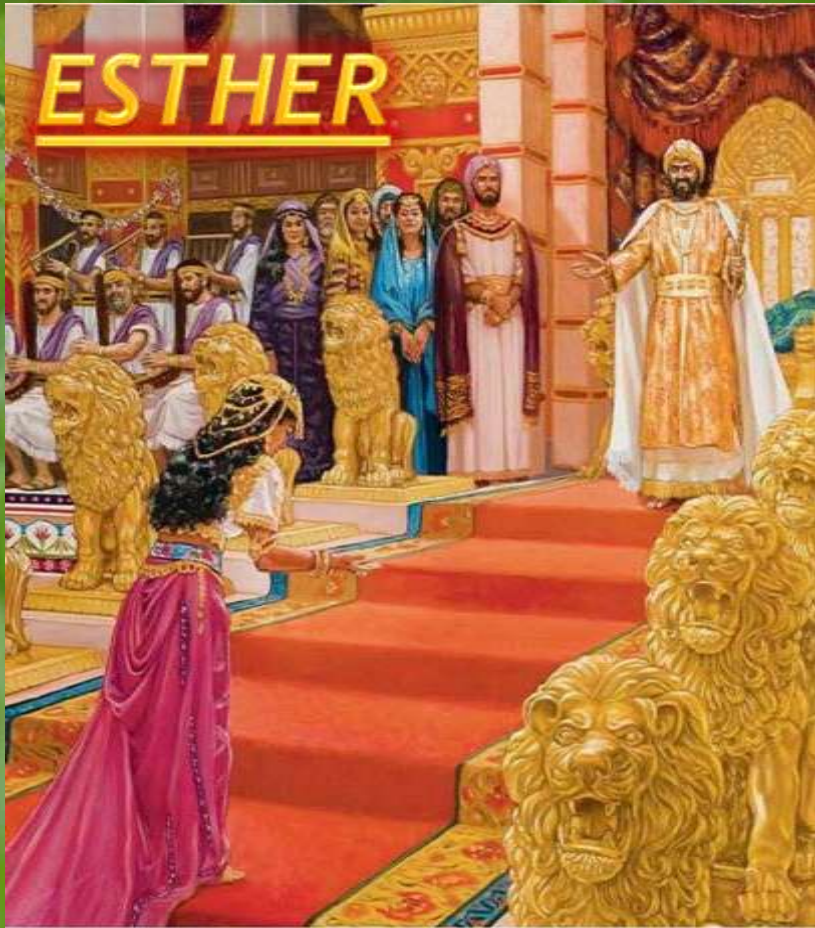
God used that situation between Ahasuerus and Vashti to place Esther in the right position so He could save His people.

We must learn to trust God’s plans even when we don’t understand them (*Isaiah 55:8-11*)

# AHASUERUS



“Now the young woman pleased him, and she obtained his favor; so he readily gave beauty preparations to her, besides her allowance. Then seven choice maidservants were provided for her from the king’s palace, and he moved her and her maidservants to the best place in the house of the women. Esther had not revealed her people or family, for Mordecai had charged her not to reveal it.” ([Esther 2:9-10](#))



Let’s study how Hadassah became Queen Esther. There are two important points: She found grace and she hid her religion.

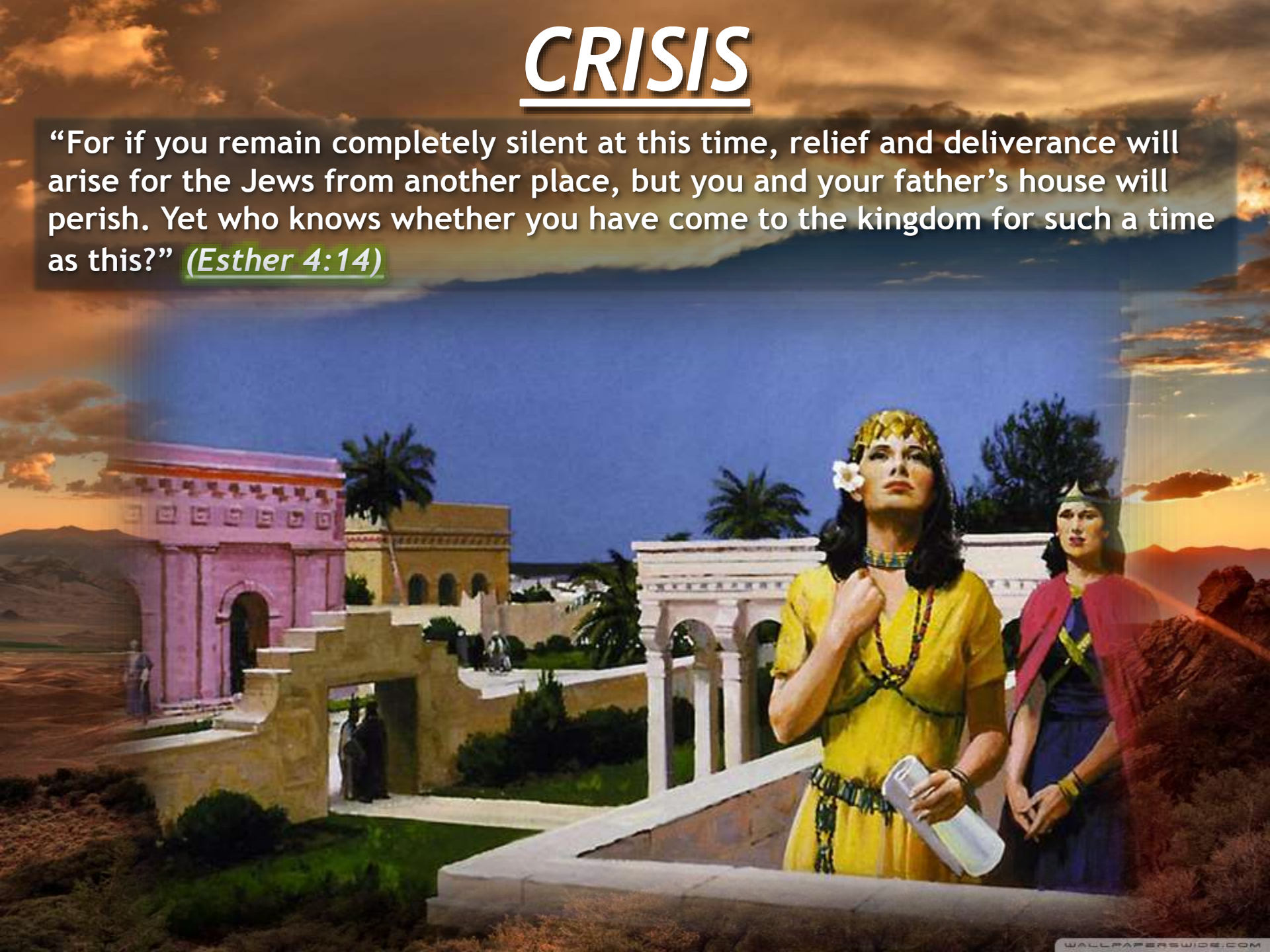
Esther found grace before Hegai and Ahasuerus ([Esther 2:9, 17](#)). That means that she was a faithful believer like other biblical characters who also found grace: Noah ([Genesis 6:8](#)), Joseph ([Genesis 39:4](#)), the people of God through the desert ([Jeremiah 31:2](#)) and David ([Acts 7:46](#)).

So... why did she hide her identity and faith?

Jesus hid His “messianity” before the Jews but He showed it to the Samaritan woman. Did Esther have similar reasons ([John 4:1-26](#))?

# CRISIS

“For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (*Esther 4:14*)

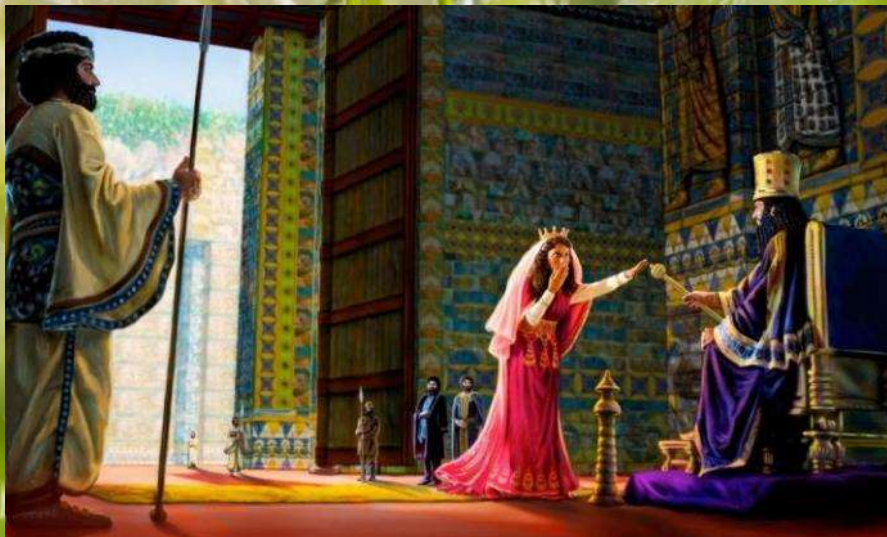


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The crisis began when Mordecai refused to kneel down before Haman like all other servants did (to worship him).

Since Mordecai’s refusal was based on his faith, Haman decided to get revenge by destroying all Jews (unknowingly including Queen Esther).



Esther overcame her fear (after some time of prayer and fasting) and decided to risk her own life to save her people.

*God has already prepared people to help in moments when crisis arises.  
Could you be one of those people?*

# MORDECAI

“So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, ‘Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!’”

(Esther 6:11)

***God prepared the way by using the right people in the right moment:***



Two eunuchs plan to commit an outrage against the king. Mordecai reports it through Esther (Esther 2:21-23).



Esther invites Ahasuerus and Haman to a feast (Esther 5:1-5).



Haman's wife and children advise him to make a gallows for Mordecai that night (Esther 5:14).



Mordecai's report is read to Ahasuerus in the small hours. The king decides to honor him (Esther 6:1-3).



Haman gets up early. He wanted to clamor for Mordecai's scalp, but he must honor him instead (Esther 6:4-12).



In the end, Haman dies in the gallows he made (Esther 7:9).

# THE GENTILES ARE CONVERTED

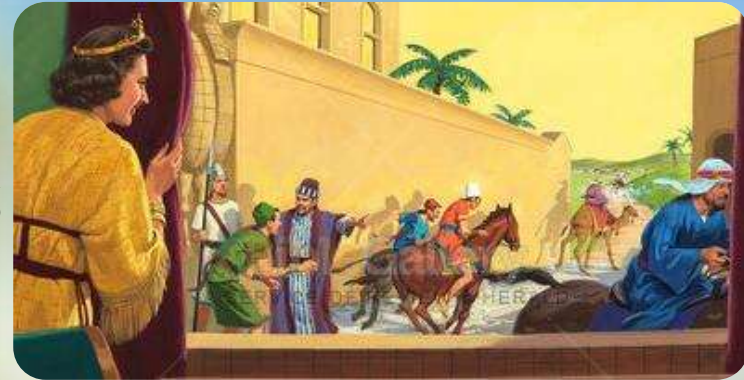
“And in every province and city, wherever the king’s command and decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a holiday. Then many of the people of the land became Jews, because fear of the Jews fell upon them.”

(Esther 8:17)

Many people were moved to believe in God’s power and to embrace the Jewish faith because of the events they witnessed.

That faith was strengthened by how the Jews acted in Purim when the royal decrees set them against their enemies.

The first decree authorized their enemies to take over all their belongings. The Jews just defended themselves; they didn’t take anything from their enemies (Esther 9:10, 15, 16).



Those people were converted by how the Jews behave in that moment and how they courageously testified to their faith.

**“The decree that will finally go forth against the remnant people of God will be very similar to that issued by Ahasuerus against the Jews. Today the enemies of the true church see in the little company keeping the Sabbath commandment, a Mordecai at the gate. The reverence of God’s people for His law is a constant rebuke to those who have cast off the fear of the Lord and are trampling on His Sabbath.**

**Satan will arouse indignation against the minority who refuse to accept popular customs and traditions... By false representations and angry appeals, men will stir up the passions of the people... To secure popularity and patronage, legislators will yield to the demand for Sunday laws. But those who fear God, cannot accept an institution that violates a precept of the Decalogue. On this battlefield will be fought the last great conflict in the controversy between truth and error. And we are not left in doubt as to the issue. Today, as in the days of Esther and Mordecai, the Lord will vindicate His truth and His people.”**

